



General Assembly

January Session, 2011

Proposed Bill No. 5247

LCO No. 88

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:

REP. HETHERINGTON, 125th Dist.

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE AND
PROTECTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS IN PROCEEDINGS
ALLEGING CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT BY A PARENT OR
GUARDIAN.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 That the general statutes be amended to: (1) institute a presumption
- 2 of a parent's or guardian's innocence in any proceeding alleging child
- 3 abuse or neglect by the parent or guardian; (2) require the petitioner to
- 4 prove a parent's or guardian's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt in any
- 5 proceeding alleging child abuse or neglect by the parent or guardian;
- 6 (3) require the protection of a parent's or guardian's constitutional
- 7 rights, as afforded to persons charged with criminal offenses, in any
- 8 proceeding alleging child abuse or neglect by the parent or guardian;
- 9 (4) require the dismissal from employment of any municipal or state
- 10 employee found to have violated the constitutional rights of a parent
- 11 or guardian in any proceeding alleging child abuse or neglect by the
- 12 parent or guardian; and (5) ensure that any such municipal or state
- 13 employee not receive immunity.

Statement of Purpose:

To protect parents' and guardians' constitutional rights in child abuse and neglect cases.